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AN ABLE PLEA FOR THE JEWS.

A spirited defense of the Jews in general and those dwelling in Russia in particular, was made by Hon. L. McDermott, of New Jersey, in the Congress of the United States, just before Easter. The subject was suggested by the reports of expected Easter massacres of Jews in the dominions of the Czar. It is customary in that land on Easter morning for people to greet each other with the salutation, "Christ is risen!" but later in the day outrages upon unfortunate Jews follow, showing that the verbal Christianity at the dawn is but lip-service and void of the true spirit of Christ, for the deeds perpetrated later on are such as the devil himself would inspire.

Mr. McDermott traced the cause of the terrible and unreasonable antagonism among professing Christian people against the Jews, to the false notion that the Jews are "Christ killers." He not only showed the folly and wickedness of holding Jews of the present time responsible for that which is charged against some of their ancestors many centuries ago, but denounced the accusation against the ancient Jews as "the wickedest falsehood that ever fell from human lips." He proceeded to offer an argument in defense of the Jews of Christ's time, to disprove the charge that the Jewish nation crucified Jesus of Nazareth, as popularly understood. The Literary Digest epitomizes the full report of the gentleman's speech, which appeared in the New York "American Hebrew." Here is the substance of his contention, expressed in one paragraph.

"If Christ was a mortal, if He was the Son of Joseph and Mary, born in the good old-fashioned way, He was crucified by the Romans. If He was the Son of God, He was crucified by the direction of His Father. Under neither proposition can the Jews be held accountable."

It is doubtless a fact fully established by evidence that Christ was crucified by the Romans, but the birth and parentage of Jesus of Nazareth, whatever that may have been, bears no proof as to the responsibility for his martyrdom. It does not offer any testimony as to whether he was slain by the Jews or by the Romans. The argument, so far, lacks the merit of sound logic. In the next place, granting that He was the Son of God, that does not prove that the Father "directed his crucifixion." Like the first proposition, it is a mere assumption. So with the conclusion that the Jews cannot be held accountable under either proposition, for, if the Romans were the actual executioners of Jesus Christ, it is possible that the deed was prompted and urged on by Jews, and for that part of the proceedings they were accountable.

Also, if Jesus of Nazareth was what He claimed to be, and Jews were instrumental in bringing Him to condemnation by the civil power, they were responsible for their acts, even though Christ was of Divine origin and came into the world by divine appointment to be the world's Redeemer. The Jews who condemned Him and influenced the Roman authorities in what they did, acted on their own agency and are therefore responsible, as much as any human beings are for their own deeds, whether they be good or evil.

The history of the trial and condemnation and execution of Jesus Christ, no doubt, shows clearly that the proceedings were conducted under Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. Mr. McDermott says:

"This seems certain; the Jews did not have power to put Christ to death, and Pontius Pilate did not care anything about the religious controversies of the Jews. It is certain that Christ was accused of treason, and it is certain that he was executed by Roman soldiers."

That is undoubtedly correct. But the honorable gentleman does not give the full account of the occurrence, which shows that the Jews did have much to do with the tragedy. It is stated that when Jesus was arrested "they that had laid hold on Jesus led Him away to Calphas, the high priest, where the Scribes and the others were assembled." After Jesus had been questioned and refused to reply, but prophesied as to His coming in the clouds of heaven, it is written further:

"Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? Behold now ye have heard His blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then did they spit in His face and buffeted Him; and others smote Him with the palms of their hands."

"When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death, and when they had bound Him they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, the governor." (Matt. xxvi, 57-67; xxvii, 1, 2.)

It will be seen that while the Jewish authorities did not stone Jesus to death or execute upon Him the death penalty in any form, they had planned to kill Him and they were His accusers before the Roman governor. It is stated also that "When He was accused of the chief priests He answered nothing." Pilate was anxious to release Him and endeavored to do so by the popular voice, but when he offered this, they cried out against the proposition and clamored for the release of Barabbas, a robber, and vociferated concerning Jesus, "Let Him be crucified!" (verses 12-23). It is stated in the same chapter that when

Pilate declared himself "innocent of the blood of this just person," "then answered all the people and said, His blood be on us and on our children!"

Mr. McDermott argues that "neither Mark, Luke nor John ever heard of this invocation," and intimates that it was "interpolated after the Christian religion had been preached to the Romans." But again the gentleman assumes too much. While it may be true that neither Mark, Luke nor John speaks of this declaration by the Jewish people, that does not prove they did not hear it or hear of it. Each of the Evangelists gives particulars which are omitted by the others. It matters not, however, to this argument whether Matthew wrote those words or they were afterwards inserted. The evidence is complete that the responsibility for the slaying of Jesus of Nazareth rested upon the Jews of that time, or at any rate upon their principal men, backed by the multitude who were present on that occasion. That they were accountable for the deed, although they did not personally put Christ to death, is testified to by the Jewish apostles of Jesus Christ as may be seen in the Acts of the Apostles and in their epistles to the churches.

But Mr. McDermott says:

"But let us take the story as it is generally taught. Let us suppose that a rabble, incited by the priests, made enough noise to induce Pontius Pilate to pronounce judgment of death. How, in the name of common sense does this place the crucifixion upon the Jewish race? When a mob lynches a prisoner in New Jersey or Delaware or South Carolina we do not say that the victim was lynched by the American people."

Here we fully agree with the gentleman. No matter what was done or incited to be done by Jewish people and their chief priests and elders at that remote period, no excuse can be found therein for the atrocities perpetrated by professing Christians upon the Hebrews of the present day. But while it may be true that ignorant zealots in semi-civilized regions commit outrages upon innocent Jews, under the impression that they are in some manner, because of their race, responsible for the shedding of innocent blood and opposition to Christ's mission and doctrine, we do not regard the anti-Semitic furor that rages in many places as attributable to that cause.

It is a race prejudice. It has been fostered through many centuries. The influence gained by wealthy Jews among the nations through usury has been the cause of much antipathy and has led to many atrocities. Except in the most advanced "Christian" nations the Jew is a marked individual, and enmity against him has been bred in the blood of the Gentiles. It is irrational, inexorable and diabolical, but it exists, and only enlightenment and the toleration it produces, which is the true Christian spirit, serves to eradicate it from the breasts of the multitude.

We honor Congressman McDermott for his manly stand in defense of an oppressed people. All Christendom should unite in a grand effort to stop the shedding of Jewish blood, without legal and legitimate cause. The enlightened peoples of modern times should rise and with united force demand that the pillage and plunder and persecution of the Jews, whether in Russia or in Turkey or in the provinces belonging to either, shall cease, and that the sons of Judah, when law-abiding, shall have the same rights and privileges, civil and religious, as are accorded to people of other races and creeds. And we endorse the appeal of Mr. McDermott, expressed in this closing paragraph, and say, let it be supported and emphasized by all the powers, called Christian in either hemisphere:

"Let the church of Russia speak! Let the Czar speak! He is the head of that church. Not one in a thousand Russian knows that Christ was a Jew. The Russian Greek church has in its possession many bushels of relics. It has sticks and stones and bones and rags. It proclaims that it has a garment worn by Christ; that it has some of His blood; that it has a picture of the Blessed Virgin, drawn by St. Luke; that it has the hand of St. Mark and the bones of the Prophet Daniel. That there is any efficacy in these relics is not believed by any one outside of the Russian church, but within that church they can be made instruments of command. Let the churches of Russia resound with the cry that the hand of St. Mark is the hand of a Jew. Tell the people that the garments of Christ were worn by a Jew. Tell those who crowd the churches that on the day of final judgment Jesus Christ will hold court with twelve Jews as associate judges. Tell the congregation that those who murder Jews will be punished in the next world—will be condemned to eternal punishment. Use the relics. The day will come when they will be cast aside, but that day is many generations afar. While they are paraded, let it be in the cause of humanity."

LAKE MOHONK CONFERENCE.

We are informed by Hon. H. C. Phillips, corresponding secretary of the Lake Mohonk conference, that that distinguished assembly will again meet on the 30th of this month. The principal topics of discussion this time will be the pan-American congress at Rio de Janeiro, and the second peace congress at The Hague. Ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster will preside. Besides the specially invited guests, there will be present representatives of chambers of commerce and boards of trade of many cities, from New York to Portland, Oregon.

The subjects chosen for consideration this time are timely. The United States will play an important role at the two great congresses that are scheduled to take place this year in different parts of the world. As pointed out by Mr. Phillips, the second Hague conference must consider some of the most weighty and difficult questions ever before an international assembly. It will receive as a legacy from the first conference the highly debatable problem of a reduction or limitation of armaments, which, with other topics left over from the first meeting, and some that have since arisen, will afford abundant exercise for the best statesmanship of the civilized world. The Pan-American gathering also promises to be worth special attention. While the first two meetings of this conference, in Washington in 1889 and in Mexico City in 1901, attracted comparatively little notice in this country, they have borne important results, through the Bureau of American Republics, their sub-conferences on customs duties and on sanitation and the Pan-American railway project, in promoting closer relations between the nations of this hemisphere and in materially improving the trade conditions and industries of

many of our South American neighbors. The Lake Mohonk conference will, by devoting much of its time to these congresses, spread light upon the objects and purposes of those international gatherings, and aid the intelligent reader to a better understanding of some of the great problems of our time.

The Mohonk conference is, of necessity, not a popular institution, being the result of private generosity and enterprise. It originated in 1895 when Mr. Albert K. Smiley issued invitations to a number of prominent men to meet at his summer residence at Mohonk Lake, N. Y., for the discussion of international arbitration. Since then it has held annual sessions, always at the invitation of the originator of the conference. But although its composition is thus limited, it has been an important factor in popularizing the subjects discussed, and that result, we hope, will also be attained by the approaching conference.

LIARS REBUKED.

The Los Angeles Times is justly indignant at the falsehoods circulated by unscrupulous publishers, concerning the dangers to which the inhabitants of California are exposed, on account of earthquakes. That persons in a civilized community can engage in deliberate falsification merely for the sake of obtaining a few dollars from their fellow-men, is almost beyond belief, and it is still more incredible that swindlers can deceive the American public by such means, notwithstanding the advantages of general education. The Times says, in part:

"The Times has heretofore called attention to the fact that large numbers of earthquake liars are abroad in the land, and that they are perniciously active in spreading broadcast the most outrageous falsehoods and exaggerations concerning the great calamity which has befallen San Francisco and the region round about it. The simple truth about this disaster is bad enough, and there is not the slightest excuse for exaggerating it. But the purpose of these conscienceless wretches appears to be to picture the situation as a great deal worse than it is; to pile horror upon horror and lie upon lie; to distort the facts in the wildest and most sensational manner; to make the reader's eyes bulge, while they rob his pockets; in short, to turn this sorrowful calamity into a money-making affair, and to rob the public as quickly as possible, knowing well that their falsehoods and misrepresentations will soon be unmasked, and that they will stand exposed as fakers and falsifiers."

The wrath of our contemporary is justly kindled against the traducers of California. It has hitherto had no word of condemnation for the class of falsifiers who for years have been preying upon Utah, making it their business to "distort the facts in the wildest and most sensational manner; to make the reader's eyes bulge, while they rob his pockets." Indeed the Times has not been slow to join in the same shameful business and to publish the vilest falsehoods about the "Mormons." Perhaps the Times will now perceive that the falsehoods spread broadcast about California are not the only ones to be denounced and abhorred.

THE TABAH DISPUTE.

The little dispute of Great Britain with Turkey concerning the boundary line between Egypt and the Turkish possessions in Asia, has been settled for the time being, by the Sultan yielding to the demands of the British government. A joint commission will now determine where the boundary should be, and that this will be done to the satisfaction of Lord Cromer, is reasonably certain.

It seems that the line at one time was drawn from El Arish, on the Mediterranean, to Suez, at the northern extremity of the gulf west of the Sinai peninsula. But later the Sultan changed this by drawing the line from El Arish to Akaba, or Tabah, at the head of the gulf east of Sinai, thus adding that historic peninsula to Egypt. This, it is supposed, was done in order to place the responsibility for the protection of the pilgrim caravans while traversing the peninsula, upon the Egyptian government. Modern communications have, however, changed the route of the pilgrims, and now, it is supposed, the Sultan would like to see the old boundary restored. The watchfulness of the British representatives in Egypt has spoiled the little game of Turkey in that part.

Turkish prestige in the countries overrun by the hordes from Asia is ever waning. Egypt is only nominally under the Sultan. In fact it is now an English possession. The province of Yemen is ablaze with insurrection, which, so far, the authorities at Constantinople have been unable to extinguish. Great Britain is crowding the Sultan away from the Persian gulf. Arabians are talking about their ancient empire, and Armenians are always dreaming of independence. The present ruler of the "faithful" is a man of more than common genius. He has played the game of politics with remarkable success, though often under extreme difficulties. Should he be taken away and succeeded by a man of less ability, the Turkish empire would probably fall to pieces.

May showers bring cold.
Let the Tillman-Roosevelt controversy lie on the table.

Strikes may stop funerals but they cannot stop death.

Dowie has postponed his fight with Death and taken on Voliva.

In Kansas City the grand jury is making it hot for the ice trust.

It is a pretty small undertaking these days that doesn't want federal aid.

Maxim means the "Bitter One" in the Russian language, which accounts for Gorky.

"The gentlemen may cry 'Amnesty,' but there is no amnesty," says the Czar.

"But if the farmers form a trust who will do the hating?" asks the Detroit Free Press. It would soon become mutual.

Andrew Carnegie says he would like to live to be ninety-seven. According to reports he has enough money to gratify every wish.

"Multum in parvo," must be the motto of the Standard Oil company,

else how can 208 gallons of oil be taken from a 200 gallon cylinder?

E. H. Harriman gave his chauffeur five hundred dollars to quit smoking. The combination of cheap cigars and gasoline probably made him sick.

Chancellor Day of the Syracuse university has come to the rescue of the Standard Oil company as against the President. It was but natural. Every dog has its day.

The United States supreme court's decision in the Chicago traction case gave municipal ownership a tremendous boost. One or two more such boosts and it would be landed.

The Sultan's complete submission to the Anglo-Egyptian demand was only given some hours after the expiration of the British ultimatum. If three days' grace is allowed on a note, surely three hours' grace should be given on an ultimatum.

Secretary Taft, with the President's full approval, lays down the principle that supplies for the Panama canal should be bought in the cheapest market. Probably there will be those who will ask why that which is good for the goose isn't good for the gander?

"Frivolity, the most unpardonable and far-reaching of all vices, is at an end in San Francisco for years to come," says Gertrude Atherton. If that were all that is at an end in San Francisco for years to come, the ill-fated city could well call the earthquake and fire a blessing.

We are under obligation to Senator Reed Smoot for a copy of the recent hearings before the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce on the Regulation of Railway Rates, with a digest of the same. It is a voluminous document, containing, in fact, several volumes of valuable information.

"The German peril in southern Brazil," is most effectually disposed of by Baron von Sternberg. And he proves his case with figures. This will, or at least should, put a quietus on the Teutono-phobes who have seen a menace to the Monroe doctrine in every move that Germany has made in the last few years. Why can't the jingoes go off and die?

DOG DUG MASTER OUT OF SNOW.

Ouray Corr, Denver Republican.
Edward Hanavan, one of the best-known miners and prospectors in Ouray county, had a remarkable escape from death in a snowslide which came down the western slope of Mount Hayden. He owes his life to his dog Sanry. Hanavan was climbing over the trail of the mountain above the Mineral Fern mine, when he was suddenly caught by a snowslide and swept 100 feet into the gulch. His dog, following 50 feet behind, barely escaped the avalanche. The faithful canine jumped into the gulch and began pawing and scraping where the toe of one of Hanavan's boots barely showed above the snow. Within ten minutes the dog reached his master's head and began licking his face. Hanavan was practically unconscious from lack of air, but soon revived and managed to dig out of what threatened to prove his snowy tomb.

CAT'S POWER IN BALANCE.

Kansas City Times.
"Did you know that if you cut a cat's tail off she cannot catch mice any more?" asked a young woman of another. "I don't see why," replied the other, "and further, I can't imagine what occasion you have had for cutting off cats' tails to see." "I haven't cut off any cats' tails, but an accident deprived our cat of its caudal appendage. The feline became as helpless as a ship without a rudder. When it tried to spring upon an object it would alight far to one side. The look of painful surprise on the cat's features was pathetic. After a while it learned to jump straight again, but it was a long and painful experience for the cat. The balance of power and the power to balance seem to lie in the tail of the cat."

BABOONS DISPOSE OF AGED.

Washington Post.
"In certain parts of South Africa," said Thomas Asheldstone, at Johannesburg, "there are baboons which carry into practical operation the doctrines of Dr. Osler. These simians have no earthly use for the aged of their own tribes, and when one of their kind gets too old to help himself the rest ostracize him completely, neither tolerating his society nor helping him to sustain life. Never was there an exhibition of such callous and cold-blooded indifference as these 'babylons' show to their helpless old. One of our scientific men who had made a study of this phase of their life told me that in this treatment of the aged by the baboons the theory of Darwin was vindicated, and that there need be no further search for the 'missing link.'"

JUST FOR FUN.

A Case of Necessity.
From the Cleveland News.

One Sunday two small boys were industriously digging in a vacant lot, when a man who was passing stopped to give them a lecture.

"Don't you know that it is a sin to dig on Sunday, unless it be a case of necessity?"

"Yes, sir," timidly replied one of the boys.

"Then why don't you stop it?"

"Cause this is a case of necessity," replied the little philosopher. "A feller can't dig without bait."

Not Living for the Future.

From the Chicago Daily News.
That the Rockefeller millions may bear an inheritance tax later does not make it any easier for the consumer to meet that new rise in the price of kerosene.

Are Doing It.

From the Indianapolis News.
As to the dissipation of large fortunes—um-m-m, well, the boys (with the exception of a few like Johnnie Junior of course) are doing their best.

Teacher—"Now, Bobby, where is St. Paul?" Bobby—"In heaven, I think!"

Tramp—"Lady, I am dying from exposure." Woman—"Are you a tramp, politician, or financier?"—Judge.

"There goes a man who always whistles at danger." "What does he do?" "Locomotive engineer."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Muggins—"My wife says I am one man in a thousand." Buggins—"Gee! What a hopeless minority."—Philadelphia Record.

Dibbles—"Isn't that Hawkins, the broker, in that automobile?" Nibbles—"Yes." Dibbles—"It's a fine machine. He must have money." Nibbles—"Yes. He has a lot of mine."—Chicago Daily News.

"Do you think a man's influence lasts after he is gone?" asked the philoso-

pher. "Well, I should say!" cried the young woman. "My husband tied my property up so that I can't ever marry again!"—Detroit Free Press.

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